

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Delete)

2. (Currently Amended) A coin-shaped IC card reader/writer which performs processing of reading data from a coin-shaped IC card and writing data to the coin-shaped IC card while the coin-shaped IC card is rolling along and passing through an interior of a coin-shaped IC card guide path, comprising:

_____ coin-shaped IC card distributing means provided in the coin-shaped IC card guide path, for performing the processing of reading data from the coin-shaped IC card and writing data to the coin-shaped IC card while temporarily stopping the rolling movement of the coin-shaped IC card, and based on results of the processing, distributing the coin-shaped IC card to another coin-shaped IC card guide path disposed separately from the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path. ~~The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 1, wherein the coin-type coin-shaped IC card distributing means comprise:~~

a shaft turnably supported at one end of the first-mentioned ~~coin-type~~ coin-shaped IC card guide path;

a partition plate secured to a leading end surface of the shaft, for opening and closing an upstream end of said another ~~coin-type~~ coin-shaped IC card guide, in conjunction with turning of the shaft; and

a drive unit for driving the shaft.

3. (Currently Amended) A coin-shaped IC card reader/writer which performs processing of reading data from a coin-shaped IC card and writing data to the coin-shaped IC card while the coin-shaped IC card is rolling along and passing through an interior of a coin-shaped IC card guide path, comprising:

~~coin-shaped IC card distributing means provided in the coin-shaped IC card guide path, for performing the processing of reading data from the coin-shaped IC card and writing data to the coin-shaped IC card while temporarily stopping the rolling movement of the coin-shaped IC card, and based on results of the processing, distributing the coin-shaped IC card to another coin-shaped IC card guide path disposed separately from the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path.~~The coin-type IC card reader/writer according to claim 1, wherein the coin-type coin-shaped IC card distributing means comprise:

a distributing lever which is provided at one end of the first mentioned ~~coin-type coin-shaped IC card guide path~~, formed with a gap into which the ~~coin-type coin-shaped IC card~~ can be inserted, and supported so as to be turnable in a direction at right angles to a direction of advance of the first-mentioned ~~coin-type coin-shaped IC card guide path~~;

a wall body that temporarily stops the ~~coin-type coin-shaped IC card~~ passing through the interior of the first-mentioned ~~coin-type coin-shaped IC card guide path~~ in a condition where the ~~coin-type coin-shaped IC card~~ is inserted through the gap of the distributing lever; and

drive means for driving the distributing lever.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~coin-type coin-shaped IC card reader/writer~~ according to claim 3, wherein the distributing lever comprises a pair of guide plates being arranged so as to form the gap for inserting the ~~coin-type coin-shaped IC card~~ therebetween, with inner circumferential surfaces of the guide plates being formed in curved surface shapes.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~coin-type coin-shaped IC card reader/writer~~ according to claim 4, further comprising a turning position detection sensor provided at a position adjacent to the distributing lever, for detecting turning position of the distributing lever.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card reader/writer according to claim 12, wherein said another ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card guide paths comprises a ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card collection path for collecting the ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card and a ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card return path for returning the ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card reader/writer according to claim 12, further comprising coin diameter detection means provided at a card deposit slot formed at a starting end of the first-mentioned ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card guide path, for detecting whether or not diameter of a coin shaped object deposited in a card deposit slot has a specific size.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card reader/writer according to claim 6, further comprising a positioning ring provided at a terminal end of the ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card return path, for positioning and supporting the coin shaped object guided through the IC card return path.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card reader/writer according to claim 7, further comprising a shutter provided in the first-mentioned ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card guide path, for opening and closing the first-mentioned ~~coin-type coin-shaped~~ IC card guide path based on detection signals of the coin diameter detection means.

Serial No. 09/894,415

10. (Add) The coin-shaped IC card reader/writer according to claim 3, wherein said another coin-shaped IC card guide paths comprises a coin-shaped IC card collection path for collecting the coin-shaped IC card and a coin-shaped IC card return path for returning the coin-shaped IC card.

11. (Add) The coin-shaped IC card reader/writer according to claim 3, further comprising coin diameter detection means provided at a card deposit slot formed at a starting end of the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path, for detecting whether or not diameter of a coin shaped object deposited in a card deposit slot has a specific size.